NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1900. - COPYRIGHT, 1900. BY THE SUN PRINTING AND PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION.

ENGLIND WILL NOT ASSENT TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE BOERS.

Message of Presidents Kruger and Steyn and Lord Salisbury's Reply - London Newspapers Accuse the Boers of Wilful Misrepresentation - Vigorous Declarations That Great Britain Will Permit No Intervention by a Foreign Power. Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, March 13.-In the House of Lords to-day Lord Salisbury, in laying upon the table President Krüger's telegram containing overtures for peace, said that the Presidents of the Transvaol and the Orange Free State had made acknowledgment of their independence an essential condition. The answer of her Majesty's Government was that, in view of the use to which the republics had put the powers given to them, the British Government was not prepared to assent to the independence of either the South African Republic or the

Orange Free State. The following is the full text of the peace proposals, which Presidents Krüger and Steyn sent to Lord Salisbury under date of Bloemfontein, March 5:

THE BOER PEACE PROPOSALS.

The blood and the tears of the thousands who have suffered in this war, and the prosteet of the moral and the economic ruin with which South Africa is now threatened, make it necessary for both belligerents to ask themselves, dispassionately and in the sight of the triune God, for what they are fighting, and whether the aim of each justifies all the appalling misery and devastation.

With this object, and in view of the assertions of various British statesmen to the effect that this war was begun and is being carried on for the set purpose of undermining Majesty's authority in South Africa and to set up an administration over all of South Africa independent of her Maj-Government, we consider it our duty to solemnly declare that the war was safeguard the threatened independence of the in order to secure and safeguard the incontestable independence of both republics as sovsuffer no harm whatever in person or in prop-

On these conditions, and on these conditions alone, are we now, as in the past, desirous of seeing peace reestablished in the South evils now reigning over South Africa. While her Majesty's Government is determined to there is nothing left to us and to our people | truth and the publication of the false. but to persevere to the end in the course aiready taken.

"In spite of the overwhelming presminence love of freedom in the hearts of ourselves and of our fathers will not forsake us, but will accomplish His work in us and in our descend-

earlier to your Excellency, as we feared that as | thankful that he did not compromise himself long as the advantage was on our side, and as | with a cause that has now resolved into the arlong as our forces held de ensive positions far | rogant obstinacy of President Kruger." in her Majesty's colonies, such a declaration sight of the whole civilized world, why we are to restore peace."

LORD SALISBURY'S REPLY

The reply of Lord Salisbury to the Presidents of the South African Republic and the Orange

'I have the bonor to acknowledge your Honors' telegram, dated March 5, from Bloemfontein, of which the purport is principally to demand that her Majesty's Government shall recognize the incontestible independence of the South African Republic and of the Orange Free State, and to offer on those terms to bling the war to a conclusion.

In the beginning of October last peace existed between her Majesty's Government and the two republies under the conventions which then were in existence and discussions had been proceeding for some months between her Majesty's Government and the South African Republic, of which the object was to obtain redress for very serious grievances under which the British residents in the South African Republic were suffering. In the course of those negotiations the South Arican Republic had to the knowledge of her Majes'y's Government made considerable armaments, and the latter had consequently taken steps to provide corresponding reën-Colony and Natal. No intringement of the rights glanted by the conventions had up to that point taken place on the British side.

'Suddenly, at two days' notice, the South African Republic after issuing an insulting ultimatum, deelared war upon her Majesty's Government and the Orange Free State, with whom they had not even been in discussion, took a similar step. Her Majesty's dominious were invaded by the two republies, siege was laid to three towns within the British frontier and large portions of the two colonies were overrun with great destruction to property and life, and the repub lies claimed the right to treat the inhabitants of extensive portions of her Majesty's dominions as if those dominions had been annexed to one or the other of them. In anticipation of these operations the South African Republic bad been accumulating for many years past military stores on an enormous scale, which by their character could only have been intended for use against Great Britain.

"Your Honors make some observations of a it necessary to discuss the questions you have raised, but the result of these preparations, both parties to the conflict desired it." which were carried on with great secreey, has been that the British Empire has been compelled to confront an invasion which has ental'ed open the Empire a costly war and the lo the nords of precious lives. This great calam ty has been the penalty which Great arquesced in the existence of the two re-

In view of the use to which the two republies have put the position which was given them and the calamities which their unprovoked attack has inflicted upon her Majesty's

PEACE APPEAL REJECTED, able one. It has been announced that the intent of the war is to destroy two republics. If that is so it is a cowardly and infamous transaction."

> PEACE MEETING CAUSED A RIOT. An attempt to hold a peace meeting at Scarborough last night resulted in a riot. Mr. Cronwright, the husband of Olive Schreiner. was the principal speaker. The police were unable to control the crowd and the meeting had to be abandoned. Then the crowd went around to the various stores owned by the promoters of the meeting and smashed plate glass to the value of \$5,000. The Mayor read the Riot act, but this did not have any effect and at 1 o'clock this morning the military had to be called out to disperse the mobs.

COMMENTS OF LONDON NEWSPAPERS LONDON, March 14 .- "As a declaration of the

British policy," says the Handard, a Ministerial organ, "Lord Salisbury's reply to the Presidents reflects with absolute fidelity the general opinion of Great Britain and the Empire. This or its equivalent is the verdict of the whole London press, and there is besides conthe war by Presidents Krüger and Steyn. The Standard says that it is hard to treat with any seriousness an appeal which ignores the palpable realities of the situation. As neither of in intelligence the only explanation possible is that they are less concerned to persuade the British Government than to supply some sort of specious material for the propaganda con-But the appeal, so far as it is meant for diplomatic use abroad, is a sheer waste of labor. No Free Staters. responsible statesman can pretend that there is in the Presidents' telegram the slightest basis for negotiation, or that it could be regarded as a preliminary to overtures of peace. But spart altogether from the merits of the British position it is perfectly understood that the affair is entirely between the British and their local adversaries. For intervention or mediation by any outside State there is no room. Great Britain declines and shall maintain her refusal to recognize the title of any neutral power to exercise influence reundertaken solely as a defensive measure to garding the future settlement of the South African dispute. Knowing the British views, South African republics and is only continued | diplomatists in both hemispheres will respect them.

The Morning Post declares that the Presiereign international states, and to obtain the | dents' proposals were manufactured for conassurance that those of her Majesty's subjects sumption abroad, and says that as such they who have taken part with us in this war shall | deserve every commendation. They have put the case in such a manner that to all not conversant with history they would appear as righteous supplicants rather than as unprincipled aggressors. After Lord Salisbury's outspoken reply it A(r.can republics and of putting an end to the | could hardly be considered less than an insult for any Power to offer to intervene in behalf of a nation which has endeavored to raise the destroy the independence of the republics sympathy of Europe by the suppression of the

The Chronicle, a Radical organ, says that the President's worst enemies could not have anticipated the full extent of their demands or of the British Empire we are confident that the the audacity of the language in which they God who lighted the inextinguishable fire of are framed. It adds: "Even Mr. Courtney, we imagine, must be staggered by Lord Sansbury's answer, which could not have been better in matter or manner. When President McKinley reads the correspondence between We have hesitated to make this declaration | our Government and the Republics he will feel

The Daily Nows, Liberal, says: "The war soight burt the feetings and the honor of the may have convinced President Kruger that the British people. But now that the prestige of British are not cowards after all, but apparthe British Empire may be considered to be as ently, if his proposals are serious, it has left sured by the capture of one of our forces him with the impression that we are fools. by her Majesty's troops, and that we were | Inability to realize the plain facts of the thereby forced to evacuate other positions situation is conspicuous in the wording to inform your Government and people, in the | proposals of Sept. 8 that caused 'the blood an i the tears of thousands.' Unhappily, there is fighting and on what conditions we are ready | little sign in the despatch of any real desire for peace. If it is a bid for foreign intervention successful."

The Telegraph says: "Such a preposterous despatch takes one's breath away, yet Lord Salisbury, with that infinite patience and forbearance which characterized our attitude toward the republics, has felt constrained to make a formal reply. It is a stern reply, no doubt, but it is the only possible response to the insolent demands of the two men who led the republics to their destruction. No Prime Minister could make any other answer without at once forfeiting his position."

The Times interprets the President's despatch as intended to lay the foundation for applications for intervention. It describes the message as a curious mixture of unctuousness. eynicism and impudence. It says that Lord Salisbury's reply was the only conceivable one. The Morning Leader alone discusses the

correspondence from other than heading of "Wanted, Practical Politics," it says: "Lord Salisbury's reply wholly precludes the possibility of an early peace. It does not commit Great Britain to annexation. The only attributes of independence that we need deny the Boers the right to arm and conduct foreign affairs." The paper condemns the tone of both despatches as the utterances of angry men more concerned to vindicate themselves than to arrive at a wise settlement,

THE OUESTION OF MEDIATION. Germany Would Be Glad to Act if Both Parties to the War Desired It.

Special Cable Despatch o THE SUN LONDON, March 14. - The correspondence between Presidents Krüger and Steyn and Lord Salisbury has not yet been commented | nishes interesting reading to the British, but upon by the Continental press, but the question of mediation is discussed in all the eapitals.

Germany, through an official agency in Berlin corrects the story from Durban to the effect that she declined to interfere between the bel- is recorded that the Boers were filling ram cans ligerents on the ground that she was in no wise concerned in the conflict. In this correction the facts are thus stated: "The Governments of the republics addressed to a no attack. The British on the prenumber of the greater and smaller States through their Consuls at Pretoria a request negative character upon the object with which | for friendly mediation. The German Governthese preparations were made. I do not think | ment replied that it would be glad to cooperate in mediation as soon as it ascertained that

English correspondents in Paris pretend to who is among the besiegers. The gun have knowledge that France will not interfere, for the reason, as one says, that her in-terference would be misinterpreted and would result in Anglo-French complications.

The Standard's correspondent at Vienna de-Eritain has suffered for having in recent years | clares positively that pour parlers have been ex- | were disbanded and disarmed he would hold changed between the cabinets with reference to the eventual possibility of promoting peace, but the result has been to show conclusively that there is no chance of improving the situation in any way. England's right to deal with her in any way. England's right to deal with her vanquished foe is not seriously contested any-where.

voked attack has inflicted upon her Majesty's dominions, her Majesty's Government can only answer your Honors' telegram by saying that they are not prepared to assent to the independence either of the South African Republic or of the Orange Free State."

SIR WILFFID LAWSON DENOUNCES THE WAR.

SIR WILFFID LAWSON DENOUNCES THE WAR.

SIR WILFFID LAWSON, Radical member for the Cockermouth division of Cumberland, in the course of a speech in the House of Commons to-night said: "This pight will be a memortory in the Company that the Washington Government can only where.

They Go Via New York.

A large proportion of the Transpacific travel goes via New York and the New York Central Lines. The service, the scenery, the route attracts them.—Idv.

BRITISH AT BLOEMFONTEIN. | would seem to leave Col. Plumer's advance

GEN. FRENCH TAKES TWO HILLS COMMANDING THE TOWN,

Lord Roberts Hurrying Along Re-enforcements-Orange Free Staters Are Said Practically to Have Abandoned the War-More Expanding Bullets Used.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. From THE SUN'S Correspondent with Gen. Roberts's

VENTERSVIEL March 12, 7:25 P. M.-A farm belonging to Chief Justice Gregorowski of the Transvaal, was occupied by Gen. Roberts as his headquarters this morning. The Boers evacuated this place at dawn. They had a multitude of wagons but no artillery. Lord Roberts is now within two hours' ride of Bloemfontein. The British have not been in contact with the Boers for two days. The continued successes have had an obvi-

ous effect on the spirits of the British troops siderable indignation at what is regarded as the | and the men are now anxious to force matters. wilful misrepresentation of the facts of During the sixteen-mile march to-day the pipers of the Highland Brigade, under orders from Gen. Macdonald, played nearly all the time.

The burghers of the Orange Free State have the Presidents is supposed to be deficient | practically abandoned the war. The surrender of Gen. Cronie militated against any good effects that might have resulted from President Krüger's visit. Commandant Delarey. who has apparently succeeded Gen Cropte. ducted in their behalf in neutral States. has not the ability of the latter and has not enough Transvaal followers to overawe the

> It is reported that Lord Salisbury and Lord Roberts have declined to entertain any peace proposals except on the basis of unconditional surrender. This news is hailed with joy by the British soldlers, who feel that they have broken the Boers' strength and are entitled to the absolute surrender of the burghers.

LONDON, March 13.-The War Office has reeived the following despatch from Gen. Lord "VENTERSVIEL March 12, 9:30 P. M.-

Our march to-day was again unopposed. We are about eighteen miles from Bloemfontein. The cavalry division is astride the railway six miles south of Bloemfortein. There are about 320 wounded men and 60 or 70 have been killed. The wounds are generally more serious than usual owing to the expanding bullets which are freely used." Later the War Office received this despatch

from Gen. Roberts: "VENTERSYLEI, March 13, 5:20 A M -I directed Gen. French if there was time before dark to seize the railway station at Bloemfontein and thus secure the rolling stock. At midnight I received a report that after considerable opposition he had been able to occupy two hills close to the station which commanded Bloomfontein. President Stevn's brother is a prisoner. The telegraph line to the northward has been cut and the railway broken up. I am starting with the Third Cavalry Brigade which I called up from the Seventh Division near Petrusberg yesterday and the mounted infantry to reenforce the cavalry division. The rest

of the force will follow as quickly as possible. LONDON, March 14 .- A descatch from Gen. Roberts, supplementing his telegram of yesterday morning, was expected last night, but it did not arrive, and the result of the operations around Bloemfontein is therefore un-

AID MEAR MAPERING.

Indications That Col. Plumer's Relieving Force Is Approaching the Town.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUS. Loxpon, March 13 .- Col. Plumer, who is marching to the relief of Mafeking, is appar- | burg. Matters at the Natal front are quiet, which our forces had occupied, that difficulty of the whole argument in the despatch. It was ently within three days of the town. A Mafe-Plumer's camp on March 4. Julius Weil has received a cable despatch via Lobatsi, March 9, which says: "All well at Mafeking on March 6. The town is still besieged." Lobasti is recognition of the transfer miles north of Mafeking and it independent States. looks as if Col. Plumer with his relieving force

was there on March D. A despatch to the Times from Mafeking, dated March 5, says: "The garrison is feeling acutely the stress of the siege. We have been reduced to a diet of horseflesh and bread made from horse forage. The water is no longer free from contamination and typhoid fever, dysentery and diphtheria are epidemie. It is impossible to isolate the fever cases. The sufferings of the women and children are terrible. There are deaths in the women's laager daily owing to fevers which are caused by the inefficient sanitation. The natives are starving, The military operations have been favorably sustained toward the brick fields from which

the enemy have been expelled." London, March 14 - The Daily Mail's correspondent at Kimberley reports that Gen Methuen occupied Boshof on March 11 without opposition. He left a garrison there and re turned to Kimberley on Tuesday. The railway northward has been repaired to Slyp Klip. It is urderstood that the line between Fourteen Streams and Vryburg is not damaged badly Kimberley is very busy, owing to the operations in the Orange Free State and those contemplated to the northward. Troops are ar-

riving and departing almost daily. The foregoing despatch disposes of the suggestion that Gen. Methuen was leading an expedition to Maleking. The relief of that town, notwithstanding the many rumors to the contr ry, has not yet been achieved. Several correspondents to-day furnish details of the siege up to March 6, some the messages concluding optimistically

"All's well," which obviously conveys nothing more than that the town has not been captured A diary of the daily doings at Mafeking furno operations on a large scale are recorded. One day the besiegers gain an advantage, sapping nearer the defenders, while the next day the defenders arrive them out. Among the incidents of the siege is with dynamite and bombarding the town with them. Majuba Day, contrary to exrectation, passed quietly. The Boers made vious day successfully tried a new 5-inch gun made of steel plates with thick rings of the same material. The gun was mounted on an impromptu carriage constructed partly of threshing machines belonging to a Transvaal Boer throws a 15-pound spherical shell. Col. Baden - Powell lately notified Commandant Snyman, whom the correspondents describe as being furiously anti-English, that unless the

himself no longer responsible for restraining Chief Linch-We. The questions of food and sanitation are far graver now than the danger from missiles. A correspondent says that the white males are reduced to half a pound of meal a day, women to a quarter of a pound, and children to two ounces. It is added that vegetables are fortunately growing well, but it seems that horseflesh is the mainstay. Many of the natives are represented as preferring to starve rather than to eat horseflesh.

natives occupying the forward Boer trenches

A despatch from Cape Town, dated March 13, reports Col. Plumer at Lobatsi, fifty-seven miles from Mafeking, and says that the Boers are retreating to Zeerust. If this is true it

Private Houses, Rent \$83 Monthly. On Edgecombe av. and 139th st., one block west of Eighth av.; new decorations and open plumbing. Premises or McVICKAR & CO., 105th st., Co., val. Park W. 446.

open. A Bulawayo despatch to the Times, dated March 6, states that Col. Plumer occupied Lobatsi on March 5 without opposition. The small party of Boers who were occupying the place retired before the arrival of the British and the bridge damaged, but the repairs are

not expected to take long.

Bradword, England, March 13.—Thomas Whiteley has received the following cable despatch from his brother, who is Mayor of Mafeking:

"BULUWAYO, March 3 - All well. FRANK. From this it is thought that some way has been found to move the civilians from Mafeking. It is more probable, however, that the Mayor alone has succeeded in getting away.

GEN. WHITE SERIOUSLY ILL. British Surprise the Boers at Aliwal North

and Make Captures. LONDON, March 13.-There are no fresh developments in Natal. Gen. White, the defender of Ladysmith, is apparently seriously iil. He has left Durban, where he arrived a few days ago, to take a cruise on the transport Mohawk before going to East London, from which place he may possibly sail for home.

The Times prints a despatch from Stormberg, dated March 12, saying that by a forced march of the British the Boers were surprised at Aliwal North, which place the British occupied on Sunday. Severe fighting followed across the river, resulting in the British occupation of tenable positions. The enemy is still holding the hills beyond. The British captured several prisoners and a wagon load of ammunition. The casualties of the British numbered twenty.

A despatch sent from Colesberg on Tuesday says that twenty-one rebels, including the Rev. Mr. Schultz, a leading member of the Afrikander Bond, were sent away Tuesday for

ERITISH SEIZURES OF VESSELS. Part of the Mashona's Cargo Condemned-Sharp Correspondence With Germany.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN. CAPE Town, March 13.-The Supreme Court has rendered judgment in the case of the seized steamship Mashona, which was bound to Delagoa Bay with a cargo of American foodstuffs. The judgment condemns a portion of the eargo, principally flour. The court ordered the release of the vessel.

LONDON, March 13 .- The Foreign Office today published the correspondence between Great Britain and Germany in regard to the seizure of German vessels by British warships. On Jan. 5 Count Von Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador in London, presented a peremptory note on the subject to Lord Salisbury. On Jan. 7 Lord Salisbury, in a communication to the Right Hon. Sir Frank Lascelles, the British Ambassador at Berlin, characterized Count Von Hatzfeldt's note as being couched in a tone which was very unusual in diplomatic correspondence. Lord Salisbury declined to accept the German contention as to what articles are contraband of war, but promised that a civil government in Puerto Rico will not be the note would be answered in due time. The result of the correspondence was known some time ago.

MEWS FROM PRETORIA. Military Situation Reported Quiet-The

Message to Lord Salisbury. Avecial Cab's Despaich to THE SUN.

From THE SUN's Correspondent at Pretoria. PRETORIA, March 10, noon, via Lorenzo Marques, March 12.-The situation during the past four days at the various centres of military operations has been quiet. British outposts are signalling in the vicinity of Petrus-

A very important joint despatch has been President Kruger and President Steyn, setting forth the idea that the right moment has come for a settlement of the war on the basis of the recognition of the two republics as sovereign.

LNGLAND'S ARMY IN AFRICA.

Its Strength Piaced at 208,000 Men-Twenty Thousand Remounts Sent There.

Special Cable Desigtch to THE SUS. LONDON, March 13 .- Mr. George Wyndham, Parliamentary Secretary of the War Office, announced in the House of Commons this evening that when the Eighth Army Division arrived in South Africa there would be a total of 208,000 troops there. After this division arrived no more troops would be sent except to fill vacancies, Mr. Wyndham added that 12,000 remounts had been sent to the British forces and that 8,000 more were now on the way to South Africa. Gen. Roberts is satisfied with the number of big guns he now has.

ONE BRIDGE AT BETHULIE SAVED.

British Too Late to Prevent the Boers From Destroying the Railway Bridge. Special Cab'e Lespatch to THE SUS

BURGHERSDORP, March 12.-Gen. Catacre arrived at Bethulie too late to prevent the Boers from destroying the reilway bridge. He found the burghers preparing to destroy the wagon bridge, which is situated about a quarter of a mile west of the railway bridge. After an artillery duel which lasted till sundown the Boers were driven off. The British loss was two wounded.

Boers Evacuate Boshof.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUS. KIMBERLEY, March 12.-The Boers have evacuated Boshof in the Orange Free State. northeast of Kimberley.

PRINCESS OF WALES RECEIVES. Three Americans Among the Ladies Pre-

sented at Her First Drawing Room. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, March 13.-The Princess of Wales held her first drawing room on behalf of the Queen at Buckingham Palace to-day. The attendance was small but unusually brilliant. Many of the ladies carried bouquets of ixias, a

South African flower. Owing to the scarcity of Life Guardsmen here detachment was sent from Windsor to attend the ceremony.

The wife of the Danish Minister presented Mrs. William Cary Sanger, Mrs. George B. Fastin and Miss Caroline Drayton to the Princess of Wales.

JERSEY CENTRAL STRIKE TALK.

Holds a Long Secret Session.
PHILLIPSBURG, N. J., March 13.—The mem-

bers of the General Grievance Committee of the five brotherhoods of railroad men employed on the Central Railroad of New Jersey arrived in Phillipsburg at 7 o'clock this morning. At 9 o'clock nearly sixty this morning. At 9 o'clock nearly sixty chairmen of local grievance committees had arrived. They immediately went into secret session and all attempts to find out the nature of the business discussed or transacted falled. At 7 o'clock to-night Second Vice-Grand Master Wilson came out and said: "I have nothing to give the press now. There will be no recess for supper and no adjournment before midnight. The probabilities are that the meeting will not be over for two days."

Asked if it was grievances which caused the meeting to be held, he said: "There are grievances." He refused to indicate what they were.

were.

It is learned on good authority that among It is grievances are allegations of overworking the men and discharging brakemen. There are

pany. If you contemplate visiting the Baths this spring, they are in St. Augustine more fully equipped than any in the world. Book there now and for April, Through trains from St. Augustine north.—Adm.

CAUCUS ON PUERTO RICO.

REPUBLICAN SENATORS FAIL TO AGREE ON A BILL.

The railway near Lobatsi has been torn up | Davis and Nelson Warn the Party of McKinley's Defeat if Free Trade Is Not Given to the Island-Proctor, Burrows, Beveridge and Mason Join In-The Maine Senators, Hanna and Others for Protection-The Foraker Bill Will Probably Be Favored-A Prolonged Debate.

WASHINGTON, March 13.-For more than three hours to-day the Republican Senators sought behind the closed doors of a caucus to agree upon a plan of action as to the Tuerto Rican question. No settlement was reached however, and the cancus adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock to-morrow afternoon. Before today's conference ended each Senator pledged his honor not to reveal what had taken place. this precaution being thought necessary to keep intact the forces that are being lined up for to-morrow's battle, which, it is thought, will be decisive. When to-day's caucus met it was the general

opinion that the compromise on the Foraker bill which was tentatively agreed to yesterday, as the result of the numerous conferences during the day, would stand and this is the prevailing opinion to-night. A bitter fight was made on the measure, but the chances are that it will yet win. The advocates of a policy of absolute free trade with Puerto Rico showed such surprising strength, however, and such persistent determination that it was impossible to reach a formal agreement of any kind. The oldest Senator cannot remember when there was such a serious split in the Republican ranks in the Senate nor one in which the rival factions have been so equally divided. To-night it is impossible to foretell the outcome with certainty, but, judging from what can be learned of the attitude of individual Senators. it is reasonably safe to predict that the compromise on the Foraker bill will stand.

That measure provides, as told in last night's despatches, for a form of civil government for Puerto Rico with no recognition of the Puerto Ricans as citizens of the United States and with no provision for a delegate in Congress. The free entry of imports into Puerto Rico from the United States and the House provision for a tariff of 15 per cent, of the Dingley law rates on imports into the Unite! States from Puerto Rico are provided for the House bill refunding to Puerto Rico the duties collected on imports from the island to be included in the compromise measure as an amendment.

The attitude of the House leaders has had much to do with bringing about the mixed up situation in the Senate. They had told the Senators that if the tariff section of the House bill is amended it will be impossible to again hold the members in line, and that the result will be a free trade measure. such . was narrowly averted when the bill was passed. One thing seems to be certain. The provision in the Foraker bill for a civil government in Puerto Rico will not be withdrawn. President McKinley is determined upon this, and is so firm in his opinion that he may decide to send a special message to Congress, giving his views as to the paramount importance of bringing military rule to the island to an end.

To-day's formal caucus was preceded by a repetition of vesterday's conferences, and Senators of all shades of opinion took a hand in the serap, ignoring entirely the steering committee appointed to bring about a settlement of a question, which is generally regarded

repetition of vesterilay's conferences, and Senators of all shades of opinion took a hand in the
scrap, ignoring entirely the steering committee appointed to bring about a settlement
of a question, which is generally regarded
as the most serious that has confronted the
Republican party since the war. Judging by
the tenor of the speeches in to-day's cau cus the
members of both houses, as well as the rank
and file, appear to be almost at their wits' ends
seeking for a solution of the problem.

When the Senators from the Republican
State of Minnesota predict the defeat of the
Republican prizer in the Presidential campaign
if the Puerto Ricans do not get free trade, and
a Senator from the still more radical Republican State of Vermont echoes the
opinion; when a Senator from Maine declares
that it will be party suicide to amend the
House bill which provides for tariff duties, and
a Senator from New Hampshire takes a
directly opposite view, and when the junior
Senator from Indiana carnestly advocates a
free trade policy and the senior Senator agrees
to support the compromise measure, some idea
can be formed of the seriousness of the task
that confronts to-morrow's caucus.

Mr. Davis was the first person to take the
floor in the caucus. He made a speech which,
considering the source, cause i much comment.
Mr. Pavis said he was convinced that the sentiment of the people of his State and of the entire Northwest was overwhelmingly for free
trade with the intabitants of the island of
Puerto Rican and that if the Island was to bethe country to which they belonged.

Mr. Davis's remarks were delivered in an
impassioned manner, and he convinced even
those who disagreed with him that he was
thoroughly sincere in what he was saying.
He warmed his Republican associates that they
were tampering with a thing that would do
the party harm. He declared that the Republigans, if the right of free trade and intercourse
with the United States was denied the
Puerto Rican solvential with his protective tariff
provision in it

Inst upon the rocks of popular disapproval. Nothing short of free trade, he said, would satisfy his people.

Senator Carter of Mentana called for an explanation of the proposed compromise bill and senator Forsker read the amendments made to the bill and explained them as he went along. These amendments and proposed changes were published in THE SUNTH'S WINDOWN MINISTER OF THE SUNTH'S WORLD WINDOWN MINISTER OF THE SUNTH'S WORLD WINDOWN MINISTER OF THE SUNTH'S WORLD WINDOWN MINISTER OF THE SUNTH WAS AS HEAT FOR THE SUNTH WAS ASSENTED FOR THE WAS ASSENTED FO

dinalarticle of faith in the Republican creed, and he could not understand how Senators who professed to be good Republicans could advocate any other policy.

Senator Frye in supporting the arguments of his colleague said it was a new thing to him to hear Republicans who had worked in the party for years now talking and urging the doctrine upon which rested the opposition of the party that had always sought to tear down what the Republicans had built up. He declared his antagonism to free trade with the island, and pointed out the mistakes that would follow the inauguration of such a policy.

with the island, and pointed out the mistakes that would follow the inauguration of such a policy.

Then Senator Proctor surprised his associates. He said he believed he was able to voice the sentiments of at least a part of New England. He knew that he understood the people of Vermont and he was prepared to say that they favored free trade with the island. He quoted from editorial articles in the leading papers of the Stare and mentioned well-known public men, members of the Republican party, who had come out boildly for the proposition. Mr. Proctor said that he was a party man and he proposed to follow the party in his State. They were for free trade with Puerto Rico and he was, as a matter of course, for what the Republicans of Vermont wanted.

Senator Gallinger, who originally favored a protective tariff against the island, said that he had given the subject much careful study

California Excursions. Daily excursions in tourist cars. Personally conducted tours every Thursday. The Chicago, Union Pacific and North-Western Line operates two magnificent trains daily. Superbeguipment, quickest time. Lowestrates. Sieeping car reservations and information at North-Western Line Office, 461 Broadway.—465. and had reached the conclusion that the only proper thing, all things considered, was free trade between Puerto Rico and the United States. He gave that policy his cordial adher-

trade between Puerto Rico and the United States. He gave that policy his cordial adherence.

Senator Hanna protested against the adoption of a policy of free trade between the island and this country. He said it was not only against the wishes of the President, but that it was against the expressed wish of the trade and labor organizations of the country. It the Republicans passed such a bill he warned his colleagues they would lose the labor vote of the country.

Senator Mason made an appeal for free trade and said that if Puerto Rico were to be a part of the country its crizens were entitled to all the rights and privileges that were accorded her clizens of any other part. It mattered little to him about precedents that might be established. What was right ought to be done, and right never harmed any one. He also warned Senators that they were playing with fire, that if they wanted to keep the State he in part represented in line for the Republican ticket free trade must be granted.

Senator Burrows, in response to some questions that were asked, made it known that his sympathies were with those who were advocating the fullest freedom of trade between the island and this country. Even Senator Simon of Oregon gave his colleagues to understand that his part of the country, the Pacific coast, was inclined to look askance at the idea of cutting the little island out of the rights that come to American citizens.

Senator Foraker did not reiterate his threat to-day to offer a pure territorial bill with free trade. It was reported that he had been talked out of that mood, but he was as insistent as ever that the bill as agreed upon at the conference of last night should be adopted. It was apparent toward 6 o'clock that the caucus could not agree to-day, for not more than half the Senators had had the opportunity of expressing their views. Adjournment was taken necordingly until to-morrow.

half the Senators had had the opportunity of expressing their views. Adjournment was taken accordingly until to-morrow.

The friends of the compromise measure have presented to the advocates of free trade two alternative measures as the only ones that could go through the Senate and which must meet the approval of the party in caucus. One was the bill as explained to-day, and the other a continuation of the military government and the maintenance of the full Dingley tariff rates. The friends of the amended bill said to-night that they believed the Republicans would all agree to morrow and that the advocates of free trade would accept the concession in the shape of free trade on all American products entering the island. following cablegram was received by the

Puerto Rican delegates in this city t "Nan Juan, P. R., March 13.
"Commissioners, Chamber of commerce, Watchulder
"Decision urgently desired; desperation; commerce of the country in most serious condition.
"President Chamber of Commerce."

REWARD TO M'CALLA.

Marblehead's Former Commander Restored to His Former Relative Rank.

WASHINGTON, March 13.-It is understood that the President has acted favorably on Secretary Long's recommendation and has restored Commander Bowman H. McCalla, the Marblehead's captain in the Spanish War, to the relative rank be occupied before he was dropped several numbers a dozen years ago by court-martial sentence for alleged cruelty to a

This reward comes to McCalla for his splendid This reward comes to McCalla for his spienda service in the war. All those officers who would be affected have alguided their approval of the plan. None of the officers who served under Samtson was specially rewarded except Capt. Higginson, whose tromotion went through by inadvertence. No commander worked harder than McCalla, and there is general satisfaction because he has been able to earn his way back to his former relative. to earn his way back to his former relative position on the naval list.

its resources and its advantages, by State officials.

officials.

OMARA, Neb., March 13.—Fakirs have begun to take advantage of the Rev. Mr. Sheldon's announced ideas of what a newstaper should contain. Encouraged by the reception he gave to a story about an appeal by a Methodist hospital for a building site, correspondents are to-night offering him a supply of pathetic stories, one of which is the alleged conversion of a woman of Omaha's Tenderloin and her action in giving

PREMIUM PUT ON ASSASSINATION.

Chinese Empress Downger Suggests the Murder of Two Reformers. SAN FRANCISCO, March 13.-Pekin advices received to-day say that the full text of the Chinese Empress Dowager's latest edict offering a reward for the capture of Kang Yu Wei and Liang Chi Chao, the Chinese reformers, shows that she made a direct bul for the assassination of these two men. She offers 100,000 taels for their capture, or, to quote the translation of the decree: "Should these men be assassinated, it will only be necessary to have their bodies identified to receive the same reward now offered. Should official rank be desired in preference to this money, we will give high, substantial rank, far above that usually granted, which will satisfy the desires of the most ambitious." most ambitious."

This decree is issued in the name of the un-

This decree is issued in the name of the un-fortunate young Emperor who regarded the proscribed men as his best friends. It has aroused much indignation among foreigners because it puts a premium on assessination. Kang Yu is now at Singapore and Liang Chi is in Vancouver, but the reward is so, great that they are likely to be murdered by highbinders

CONVICTS FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

Two Fatal Battles in South Carolina Yesterday Guard and a Convict Killed. COLUMBIA, S. C., March 13.-Convicts working on a State farm near Columbia and others on the Laurens county chain gang broke from their guards to-day. In the first case Guard their guards to-day. In the first case Guard Harlin was disarmed, but the convicts could not work his rifle. Five attacked him with rakes. He drew his bistol, shot one dead, would ded a second and two surrendered. One escaped. The guard was badly injured.

In Laurens Jack Coleman broke a guard's head with a stone, killing him, seized his rifle and ran. He was pursued with dogs. On being taken a sharp fight ensued, John D. Mills, a deputy sheriff, was shot down. Coleman did not surrender until he had several builets in his body.

STRUCK ALLEGHENY'S MAYOR. Police Captain Thornton Knocked Him

From the Steps of the City Hall. PITTSBURG, March 13.-John G. Wyman, the Mayor of Allegheny, was attacked by Police Captain James Thornton this evening, and got Captain James Thornton this evening, and got a blow in the face from Thornton's flat that knocked him from the City Hall steps to the pavement. The Mayor jumped up and both men struggled to get at each other Lut wery restrained by hystanders. Thornton says the Mayor cursed him and he wouldn't stand it. Wyman is backing W. H. Andrews, Senator Quay's right hand man, for the State Senate, and the police favor Andrew's opponent.

WASHINGTON, March 13.-Col. John S. McEwan of New York, who has been Chief

Mekwan of New York, who has been Uniet. Clerk of the Senate for the past eight years, will be superseded on April 1 by Herry M. Rose of Michigan, rivate secretary to Senator Burrows. Col. Mckwan was appointed at the recommendation of David B. Hill, when the Democrats were in control of the Senate.

Jockey Odom to Ride for W. C. Whitney COLUMBUS, March 13.-Jockey George Odom left Columbus, his old home where he has been wintering, for New York to-day. He will spend until May in training, when he will re-port to W. C. Whitney.

Latest Marine Intelligence. Arrived .- Ss Oceanic, Cameron, Liverpool, March 7

The "Royal Limited," Finest Day Train in the torid, leaves New York, South Ferry and foot of Aberty st., daily 3 P. M., arrives Washington 8 P. M., plendid Dining and Cafe Car Service, —Adv.

MONEY BILL NEARLY A LAW

PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE MEASURE NOW AWAITS THE PRESIDENT'S SIG ATURE.

Conference Report Adopted by the House -Secretary Gage Issues a Statement in Which He Calls Attention to Changes

That Will Be Made by the Bill's Provisions WASHINGTON, March 13.-The Financial bil which was passed finally by the House this afternoon will have a marked effect on the administration of the Treasury Department, and Secretary Gage has been making preparations for some time to carry out the provisions of the measure. Some of the chief provisions of the bill were either suggested by Mr. Gage or were adopted after consultations between him and the Senate and House leaders. After the passage of the bill to-day the Secretary made this statement :

"The Financial bill which now awaits only the President's signature to become a law, has for its first object what its title indicates, the fixing of the standard of value and the maintaining at a parity with that standard all forms of money issue ! or coined by the United States. It reaffirms that the unit of value is the dollar, consisting of twenty-five and eighttenths grains of gold, nine-tenths fine, but from that point it goes on to make it the duty of the Secretary of the Treasury to maintain all forms of money issued or coined at a parity with this standard. It puts into the hands of the Secretary ample power to do that. For that purpose the bill provides in the Treasury bureaus of issue and redemption, and transfers from the general fund of the Treasury's eash \$150,000,000 in gold coin and bullion to the Redemption Fund, that gold be used for the redemption of United States notes and Treasury notes.

"That fund is henceforth absolutely cut out of and separated from the each balance in the Treasury, and the available cash balance will hereafter show a reduction of \$150,000,000 from the figures that have heretofore prevailed. This \$150,000,000 Redemption Fund is to be used for no other purpose than the redemption of United States notes and Treasury notes, and those notes so redeemed may be exchanged for gold in the general fund or with the public so that the reserve fund is kept full with gold to the \$150,000,000 limit.

"The Secretary is given further power. If redemptions go on so that the gold in this reserve fund is reduced below \$100,000 000, and he is unable to build it up to the \$150,000,000 mark by exchange for gold in the general fund or otherwise, he is given power to sell bonds, and it is made his duty to replenish the gold to the \$150,000,000 mark by such means. "The 'endless chain' is broken by a provision which prohibits the issue of notes so redeemed

to meet any defleiencies in the current reve-

nues. The act provides for the ultimate retire-ment of all the Treasury notes issued in pay-ment for silver bullion under the Sherman act. As last as that bullion is coined into silver dol-lars Treasury notes are to be retired and re-placed with an equal amount of silver certifi-The measure authorizes the issue of gold

general satisfaction because he has been able to earn his way back to his former relative position on the naval list.

CRITICS OF THE HEV. MR. SHELDON.

Business Men Call for Market Reports

—Fakirs Get After Him.

Topeka, Kan., March 13.—Many of the readers of the Topeka Capital here were disappointed when they opened their paper this ideas put into practice. They complained that there was not enough news. Business men especially complained because much of the general lund of the recrificates shall be issued only in denominations of the service when its most feature of the Capital will be signed articles about Kansas, its laws, its public institutions, its presources and its advantages, by State

of United states notes of small denominations and replace them with notes of denominations of ten dollars and unward. Further room is made for the circulation of small silver certificates by a clause which permits national banks to have only one-third of their circulation in denomination under ten dollars.

"One clause of the bill which the public will greatly appreciate is the right that it sives to the Secretary to coin any of the 1850 buildion into subsidiary silver coins up to a limit of \$100,000,000. There has for several years been a scarcitr of subsidiary silver doin a limit of \$100,000,000. There has for several years been a scarcitr of subsidiary silver that is needed. Another provision that the public will greatly appreciate is the authority given to the Secretary to recoin all worn and uncurrent subsidiary silver now in the Treasury or hereafter received. The bill makes a continuing appropriation for paying the difference between the face value of such coin and the amount the same will produce in the new coin.

"A distinct feature of the bill is in reference to the refunding the 3 per cent. Spanish War loan, the 4 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds maturing in 1907 and the 5 per cent. bonds will not be offered for sale, but will only be issued in exchange for an eval amount, face value, of oils bonds. The holders of oils bonds will receive a premium in cash to compensate them in a measure for the searches of oils bonds will receive a premium in cash to compensate them in a measure for the search of the law to such to make an in ameasure for the search of

FINAL VOTE ON MONEY BILL, The House Adopts the Conference Report

by a Vote of 166 to 120. WASHINGTON, March 13,-After certain routine business had been disposed of in the House of Representatives this morning. Mr. Overstreet (Rep., Ind.) called up the conference report on the Financial bill, by virtue of the special order made last week. He explained the provisions of the bill as it had been agreed upon by the conferees. He said it contained every principle of the bill as it passed the House, with the single exception of the tax upon national banks. The principal object of the bill, to establish the gold standard, was still

Mr. Shafroth (Sil., Col.) inquired if the new bill gave the Secretary of the Treasury power to redeem silver dollars in gold? Mr. street replied that it did not; neither did the House bill. But it did give the Secretary power to maintain the parity of gold and silver by any means necessary.

its main feature.

Answering a question put by Mr. Snodgrass Dem., Tean.). Mr. Overstreet said the provision in the House bill o' putting all debts, public and private, on the gold standard basis had been omitted by the conferees for two reasons: first, because of a fear that it might be deemed retroactive as to private debts and therefore